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EDITORIAL

Gold, and lots of it

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I wrote a short editorial last quarter on some of the work we have been doing at the World Gold Council to promote how important gold is in the field of medical diagnostics. Obviously, the metal is used in such minute quantities in these types of applications, it barely registers as gold at all in many minds. However, the same most certainly cannot be said of the Bank of England gold vaults here in London.

Many of these enormous, highly secure repositories exist around the world, but it is very rare you get a chance to actually see inside them. However, recently, the Bank of England released an app “that lets you explore the famous Threadneedle Street building in the heart of the City of London” (see <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/Pages/info/virtualtourapp.aspx>). This was designed on the back of a visit made to the vault by the Queen and allows everyone to visualise the gold and how it is stored.

Whilst this app is good, I believe a group of researchers at the University of Nottingham have managed to do something even better. If you have not heard of the “periodic table of videos” before, I implore you to take five minutes and have a look (<http://www.periodicvideos.com/>). Led by Nottingham stalwarts Professor Martyn Poliakoff and video journalist Brady Haran, the team of Nottingham scientists have brought the elements to life via these beautifully shot, informative videos.

Now, obviously I am biased, but their effort with gold certainly deserves a special mention. As I mentioned above, these types of location are incredibly difficult to access for obvious reasons. Professor Poliakoff spent many months obtaining the necessary permissions, and I am very glad he did as the video is both utterly unique and informative. You can view it here <http://www.periodicvideos.com/videos/079.htm>.

As Professor Poliakoff says at the beginning of his video, gold displays some fascinating chemistry, and that is where our main interest as scientists lies. Our third issue of the year carries a nice range of nanotechnology-focused manuscripts, ranging from new preparative methods for nanoparticles to antimicrobial applications, and new electrocatalysts. However, if you are also interested in learning more about gold generally, and the role it plays in society in the twenty-first century, please visit our new “Advanced by gold” material at a www.gold.org/advanced_by_gold. Here, we present information on the shift in demand for gold from West to East, the role gold mining plays in developing economies, the use of gold by central bankers, gold's role in providing financial security and gold's use in cutting-edge health care applications.

As always, I welcome any feedback you have about the journal, and I hope you enjoy issue 3 of 2013.

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